

Capital: Dushanbe

Population: 6.25 million (2003)Tajik 67%, Uzbek 23%, Russian 3.5%, other 6.5% (including Kyrgyz).

GDP (2003): \$1.64 billion (2003)

Population below national poverty line: 85% (2002)

GDP per capita: \$252

GDP per capita (purchasing power parity): \$1,000 (2004)

Religion: Sunni Muslim 85%, Shi'a Muslim 5%, other 10% (2003)

Language usage: Tajik and Russian

President: Imomali Rahmonov

Prime Minister: Oqil Oqilov

Ambassador to the US: Khamrokhon Zaripov



National Interest: Tajikistan is important to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests due to its role as a front line state in the war on terrorism and its role as a transit route for narcotics, arms and possibly nuclear materials. The most disadvantaged of the Central Asian Republics, Tajikistan has limited resources, is landlocked with few transportation links, and was ravaged by several years of civil war and drought. In spite of its disadvantages, Tajikistan is successfully, if haltingly, making a transition to normalcy, civil order, and democracy. USAID's programs focus on democratic, economic, and health reform, and conflict mitigation.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S ACTIVITIES IN TAJIKISTAN

FY 05: Total FSA: \$27 million, USAID total - \$18.9 million

Economic Reform (FY05 \$4.9 Million, 25.9%): USAID's strategy to foster economic growth combines support for small/medium enterprises (Pragma), business education (Carana-EdNet), microfinance (FINCA), and the agricultural sector (Winrock-Farmer-to-Farmer) with policy reform, including judicial and commercial law reform (ARD/CHECCHI), support to the Ministry of State Revenues for tax reform, assistance to the National Bank for banking sector reform and microfinance legislation development (Bearing Point, IFC), support for WTO accession (Pragma), and updating the land tenure legislation (ARD).

Energy & Water (FY05\$1.5 Million, 7.9%): USAID provides assistance to Water User Association (WUA) in Tajikistan to help farmers manage the Soviet-era irrigation network, improve on-farm water management, and increase ag production (Winrock).

Democracy & Media (FY05 \$5 Million, 26.4%): USAID provides training, assistance, and small grants to NGOs to strengthen civil society (IREX). USAID also supports independent television, radio and print media with training, legal assistance, and production of a weekly news program (Internews, Asia Plus). USAID supports civic education and political processes (IFES), local government (Urban Institute), and legal education (ABA/CEELI). An anti-trafficking in persons program works on prevention, drafting anti-trafficking legislation and improved prosecution of traffickers (IOM).

Conflict Mitigation (FY05 \$.8 million, 4.2%): Through the Peaceful Communities Initiative (Mercy Corps), the Community Action Investment Program (Mercy Corps, Aga Khan, UNDP) and the Tajikistan Conflict Mitigation Program (Community Habitat Finance, Mercy Corps), USAID promotes public dialogue in identifying sources of conflict, and innovative community-based solutions. Target areas are ethnically diverse communities in the Ferghana Valley, Khatlon region and the Rasht and Tavildara Valleys.

Health & Population (FY05 \$4.6 Million, 24.3%): USAID infectious disease activities include support for reduction of TB (Project Hope), malaria (MERLIN), and HIV/AIDS (PSI/CDC). In primary health care, USAID provides technical assistance for health sector reform, and training in family medicine for doctors (Abt Associates, AIHA). Other programs include nutritional surveillance and feeding (Action Against Hunger); drug awareness and prevention activities (Soros); reproductive and child health (Project Hope); maternal/child health (Save the Children); health and family planning through education, awareness, and midwife training (CARE/Aga Khan Foundation); and small grants to health NGOs (Counterpart).

Basic Education Initiative (FY05: \$.0.2 Million, 1.1%): USAID seeks to improve basic education at the primary and secondary school levels. Activities include training in teaching methods that stress critical thinking and active learning; development of new textbooks that incorporate interactive methodology; community mobilization on education issues; capacity building for educational administrators; and rebuilding schools (AED, OSI, Save the Children UK&US; Aga Khan). USAID also funds an agricultural income generation project for vulnerable groups in Khatlon and Sughd regions (Save the Children/US).

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